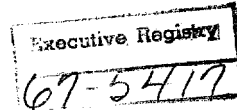


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17 November 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD



SUBJECT: Briefing of General Maxwell Taylor on FOBS

1. At General Taylor's request, he was briefed today on the Soviet Fractional Orbital Bombardment System (FOBS). Dave Brandwein handled the briefing and [REDACTED] and I were present.

25X1A

2. Apart from a number of technical questions which Brandwein handled to General Taylor's apparent satisfaction, Taylor made several other points:

25X1B

a. [REDACTED]

25X1B

[REDACTED] He emphasized that he of course understood the political constraints but he wanted the Agency's technical opinion as to feasibility, purely apart from any other considerations. [REDACTED] volunteered that the PFIAB had

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[REDACTED] some time ago.

25X1B

25X1B

(Mr. Brandwein will put together a factual statement.)

b. General Taylor wanted to know why Secretary McNamara made his announcement about FOBS, and whether we knew that he was going to do it. Brandwein speculated that publication of two articles by Evert Clark in the New York Times, in August and October, gave some information on this and McNamara may have decided to pre-empt further leakage. I said that I believed nobody in CIA was aware that he was going to do this but I couldn't speak absolutely firmly with respect to the DCI. Coyne mentioned the apparently over-optimistic statements made by the Secretary about the capabilities of over-the-horizon radar, which Mr. Brandwein's briefing had made clear. General Taylor shut this off with a sardonic comment that there were other factors involved which the Secretary took into account.

c. He asked about our knowledge of Russian intentions or capabilities in the FOBS field which might have come from collateral. Brandwein referred to one statement by Khrushchev several years ago, which struck a note with General Taylor. (Brandwein will concert with OCI to compile whatever collateral exists.)

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cc: DCI  
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Executive Director  
DD/I  
DD/S&T  
Director/FMSAC

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